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Appl. No. : **09/771,439**
Filed : **January 26, 2001**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for collecting nucleic acids, which comprises:

contacting a sample nucleic acid solution with a nucleic acid-immobilized substrate comprising a substrate and single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences, said single-stranded nucleic acids being each separately immobilized on the substrate, whereby immobilized portions of the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids are provided on the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate;

hybridizing the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids and single-stranded nucleic acids contained in the sample nucleic acid solution and complementary to the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids to form hybridized nucleic acids; and

collecting the hybridized nucleic acids separately according to the immobilized portions by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) rubbing off the immobilized portions; and
- (2) shaving off the immobilized portions,

wherein the single-stranded nucleic acids are immobilized via a covalent bond.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate is a substrate on which the single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences are immobilized via a compound having a carbodiimide group carried on the substrate.

Claim 3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate is a DNA microarray.

Claim 4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate is a DNA microarray.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate has a plate shape.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the substrate has a plate shape.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the substrate has a plate shape.

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Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the substrate has a plate shape.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hybridized nucleic acids are collected by rubbing off the immobilized portions.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hybridized nucleic acids are collected by shaving off the immobilized portions.